

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2003

The Honorable James T. Walsh
Chairman
Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-143, Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walsh:

We are writing to request a funding level of at least \$350 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004. As you know, the HOPWA program, which enjoys wide bipartisan support, is the only federal housing program that specifically provides cities and states hardest-hit by the AIDS epidemic with the resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with AIDS.

President Bush demonstrated his strong commitment to the HOPWA program by requesting a \$5 million increase for FY04 and we believe it is necessary to build on this important request with an appropriation of at least \$350 million. Despite consistent support from your committee in increasing HOPWA's annual appropriation, the growing demand for services requires a substantial increase this year.

Major strides have been made in treatment options for people living with HIV/AIDS, and with these advances, there is new hope for everyone touched by the AIDS epidemic. However, the cost of these new treatments can often force people to decide between essential medications and other necessities, such as housing. Further, individuals with HIV/AIDS must have stable housing to ensure access to and/or benefit from complex drug treatments which often require special dietary needs. In addition, medications must often be refrigerated and taken on a rigid time schedule. Inadequate housing is not only a barrier to treatment, but also puts people with HIV/AIDS at risk of premature death from exposure to other diseases, poor nutrition, stress and lack of medical care. At any given time, one-third to one-half of all Americans with AIDS are either homeless or in imminent danger of losing their homes. HOPWA answers this need, successfully providing suitable, reasonably priced housing for thousands of Americans battling AIDS.

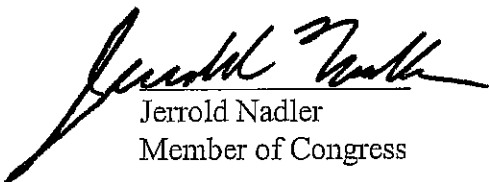
HOPWA enables cities and states to design and provide community-based, cost-effective housing for people living with AIDS and their families. It provides maximum flexibility to states and communities to implement strategies that respond to local housing needs and shortfalls. In addition, the administrative costs of the program are capped, ensuring the money goes directly to serving people with AIDS.

In FY 2002 alone, HOPWA funds served over 61,700 people in roughly 49,400 units of housing, in 74 cities and 34 states across the nation. Unfortunately, the demand for housing accommodations for people living with HIV/AIDS continues to greatly outweigh the resources currently available.

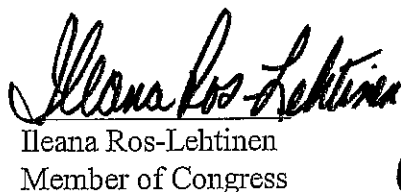
The HOPWA program offers thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families the safety and stability to benefit from drug treatments that have contributed to a dramatic reduction in AIDS mortality in this nation. We urge you to give the highest priority to an allocation of \$350 million for HOPWA in the Fiscal Year 2004 VA/HUD Appropriations bill so that this important program may continue to serve those in need.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

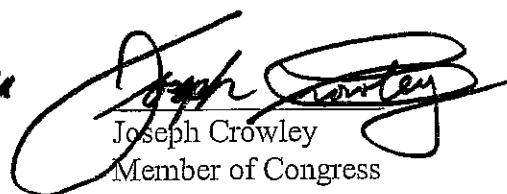
Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress





Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

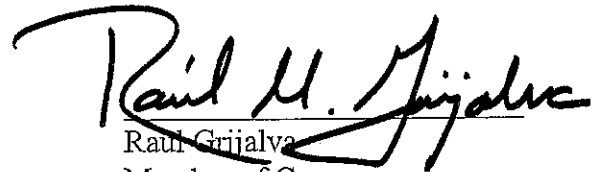


Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress


Phil English
Member of Congress



Tom Udall
Member of Congress

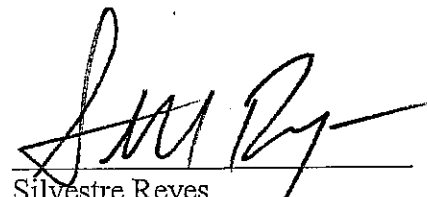

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress

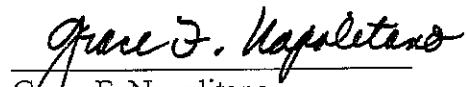

Neil Abercrombie
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Donna M. Christensen
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Silvestre Reyes
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Julia Carson
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Grace F. Napolitano
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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Barbara Lee
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James A. Leach
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Henry A. Waxman
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George Miller
George Miller
Member of Congress

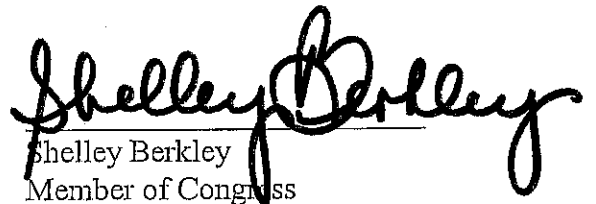
Ben Cardin
Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress

Michael R. McNulty
Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress

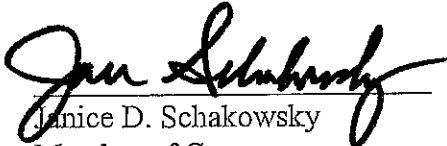
Gerald D. Kleczka
Gerald D. Kleczka
Member of Congress



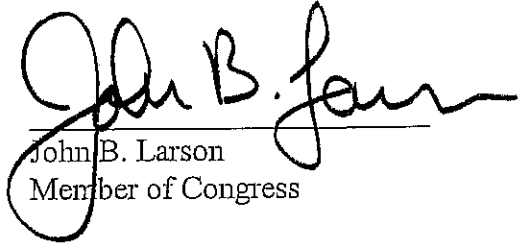
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



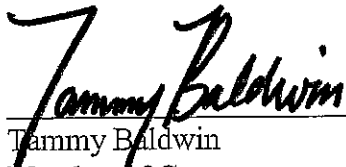
Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



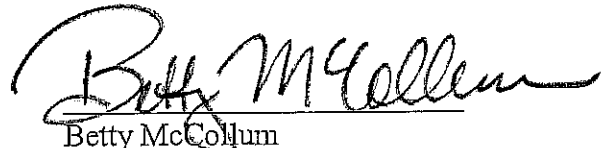
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



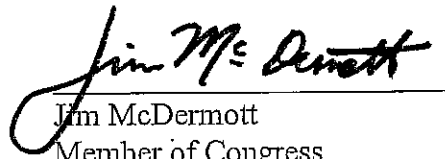
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



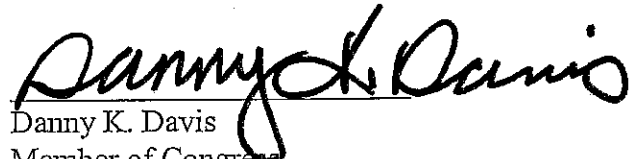
Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress



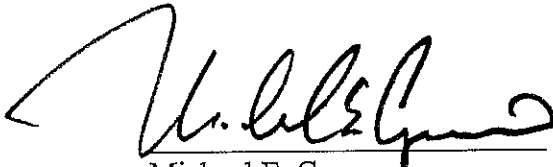
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Anthony D. Weiner
Member of Congress



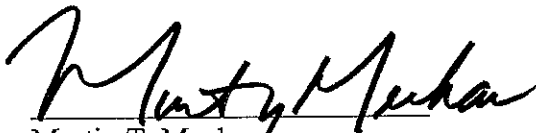
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress




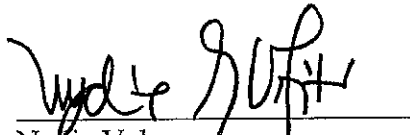
Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

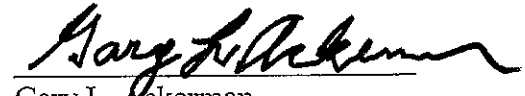



Ron Kind
Member of Congress


Martin T. Meehan
Member of Congress



Bernard Sanders
Member of Congress

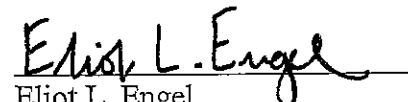

Nydia Velazquez
Member of Congress



Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress

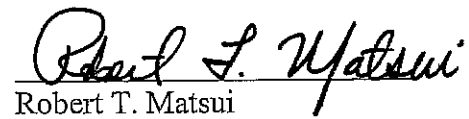

Martin Frost
Member of Congress

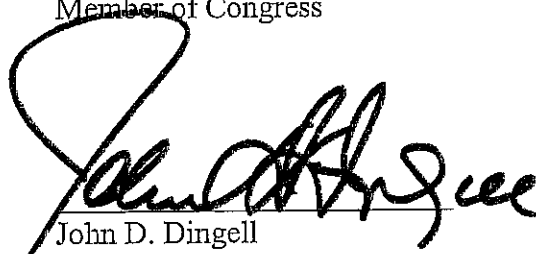

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress


Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress

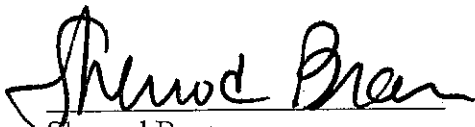

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress


Peter Deutsch
Member of Congress


Robert T. Matsui
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John D. Dingell
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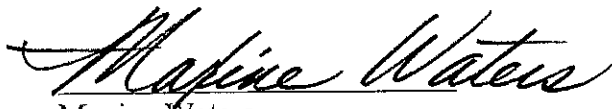

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



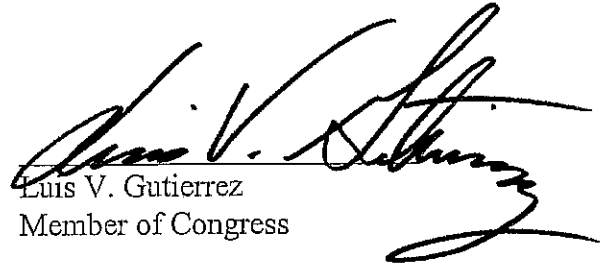
Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress



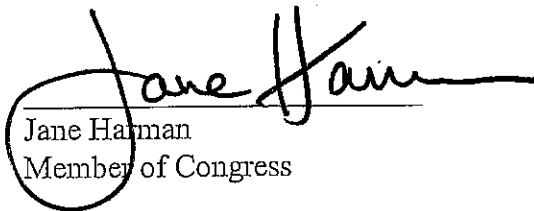
Gene Green
Member of Congress



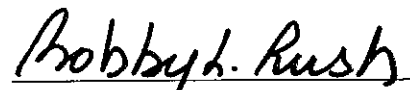
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



Jane Harman
Member of Congress



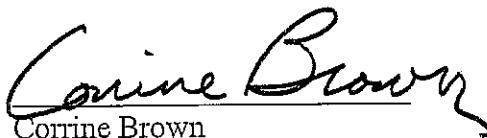
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



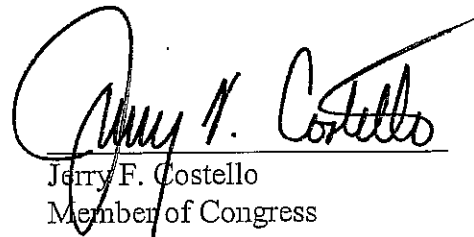
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress



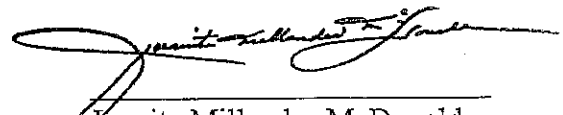
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Jerry F. Costello
Member of Congress



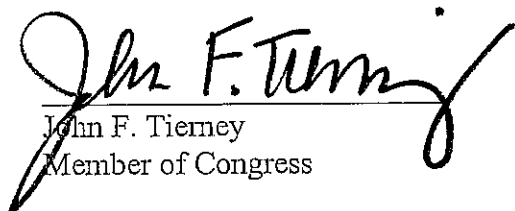
Barney Frank
Member of Congress



Juanita Millender-McDonald
Member of Congress



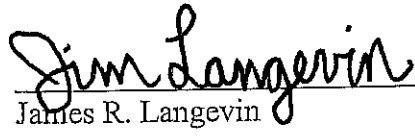
William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress



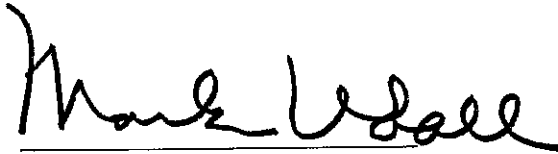
John F. Tierney
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Zoe Lofgren
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James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



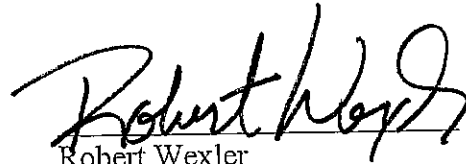
Mark Udall
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



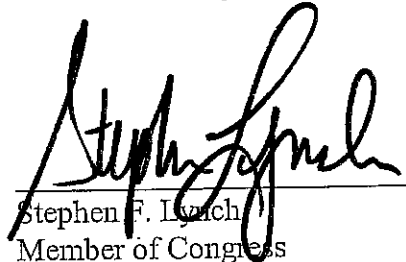
Ed Case
Member of Congress



Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



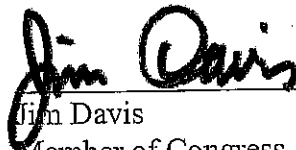
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



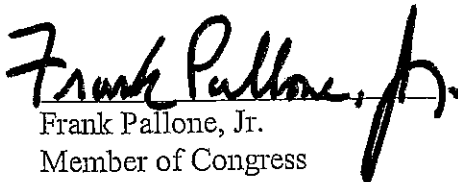
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



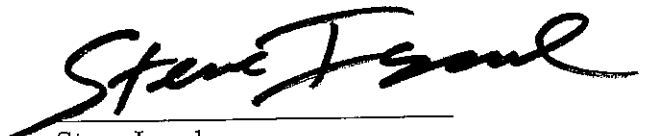
Adam B. Schiff
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Jim Davis
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress